UNION RAILWAYS LIMITED

EAST OF PLUCKLEY ROAD

ARC PRD97

An Archaeological Evaluation

Contract No. 194/870

museum of LONDON
Museum of London Archaeology Service
October 1997

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Final Report
Volume 1 of 1

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Prepared by: Date:
Checked by: Date:
Approved by: Position: Date:

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EAST OF PLUCKLEY ROAD, NEAR ASHFORD, KENT

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

As part of a wider programme of archaeological investigation along the route of the proposed Channel Tunnel Rail Link, Union Railways Limited (URL) commissioned the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) to evaluate a strip of land situated to the north of the M20, approximately 7.5km to the west of Ashford, Kent. The site was split into two fields (west and east) by Oakover Lane and was centred on 74832/27556 on the URL site grid. Thirty-seven trenches were laid out to sample the evaluation area where earlier fieldwalking had identified surface concentrations of prehistoric worked flint and medieval pottery.

The evaluation revealed three periods of activity. Prehistoric (possibly Iron Age) features were recorded and interpreted as quarrying, perhaps to extract Iron Pan. The quarrying did not appear to have been very intense. Occupation on site was implied by the possible re-use of a partially backfilled quarry pit as a shelter, and a pit. Limited amounts of pottery and undiagnostic flints were recovered.

Roman activity was represented by a ditch, orientated north-east to south-west, recorded near the top of the area of high ground to the west. The ditch was level, being situated on the 92.00m OD contour line. Associated with the ditch was a quarry pit and a number of irregular cuts. Sealing the Roman features was a layer of gravel which might represent a road, perhaps associated with the main Roman Dover to Rochester road that may be situated in the area of the present M20.

Medieval activity was limited to the eastern field, suggesting that Oakover Lane formed part of a medieval field boundary. All the pottery recovered dated from 900 to 1300 and three phases of field ditches have been tentatively identified. The eastern limit to the field(s) was a north to south orientated stream. Clearly the existence of a medieval farm in the immediate area is implied, possibly in the area of the existing Oakover Nursery or beyond the limit of the evaluation.

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SECTION 1: FACTUAL STATEMENT

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 The Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) was commissioned by Union Railways Limited (URL) to carry out an archaeological evaluation, between 9/5/97 and 21/5/97, on land to the east of Pluckley Road and north of the M20. The site lay approximately 7.5km to the north-west of Ashford, Kent. The evaluation forms part of a larger programme of archaeological investigation along the line of the Channel Tunnel Rail Link, the aim of which is to assess the effect of the construction of the new railway upon the cultural heritage. An Environmental Assessment has been prepared (URL 1994). This evaluation is within CTRL route window 29.

1.1.2 The site is located on undulating land approximately 2.5km to the south of the Pilgrim's Way, which lies near the base of the North Downs. To the west of the East of Pluckley Road evaluation lay a further URL evaluation; 'East of Newlands' (ARC NEW 97).

1.1.3 The evaluation consisted of 37 trenches numbered 1627 Trial Trench (TT) to 1646TT, 1650TT to 1663TT and 3036TT to 3038TT. Three trenches adjacent to Oakover nursery; 1647TT, 1648TT and 1649TT, were not excavated.

1.1.4 The work was carried out in accordance with the Specification for Archaeological Investigations, prepared by URL, detailing the scope and methods of the evaluation, including this report. The area of the evaluation is shown on Fig 2.

1.2 Geology, landscape and landuse

1.2.1 The natural geology of the area was composed of the Folkestone beds - yellow sands, stained and shot through with iron pans.

1.2.2 A stream orientated north to south bordered the evaluation area to the east.

1.2.3 The western part of the site (between 3036TT and 1629TT, Fig 2) incorporated a spur of high ground that stretched south from the North Downs. The view from this area was extensive in all directions. To the east of the high ground the land surface sloped down before levelling out between 1631TT and 1660TT and gently sloping down to the stream on the eastern site boundary.

1.2.4 The site was approximately 100m wide at the western end, 240m wide at the eastern and stretched 750m from west to east. A section from west to east reads:

97.09m Ordnance Datum (OD hereafter) at 3036TT
92.71m OD at 3037TT
83.64m OD at 1629TT
79.34m OD at 1631TT
74.83m OD at 1640TT
72.64m OD at 1644TT
70.16m OD at 1650TT
67.22m OD at 1660TT

1.2.5 The site was split into two by the north to south aligned Oakover Lane.

1.2.6 The two fields covered by the evaluation were sown with wheat.

2 AIMS

2.1 In general the works aimed to provide information to determine:

2.1.1 • the presence/absence, extent, condition, character, quality and date of any subsoil deposits of archaeological interest which may be associated with, or in close proximity to, the surface concentrations of prehistoric flint recorded during the earlier URL Environment Assessment;

2.1.2 • the presence and potential of environmental and economic indicators preserved in any archaeological features or deposits;

2.1.3 • the local, regional and national importance of such remains, and the potential for further fieldwork to fulfil local, regional and national research objectives.

2.2 Specific to the evaluation at East of Pluckley Road were the following:

2.2.1 • 1632TT, 1634TT, 1635TT and 1638TT to 1644TT were located to sample surface concentrations of prehistoric worked flint recovered during previous fieldwalking;

2.2.2 • 1655TT to 1660TT were located to sample surface concentrations of prehistoric worked flint and medieval pottery;

2.2.3 • The remaining trenches were located systematically.

3 METHODS

3.1 General

3.1.1 A detailed specification for the evaluation was agreed by URL with the County Archaeologist and English Heritage. The following text is intended only to amplify certain aspects of the evaluation methodology.

3.2 Survey

3.2.1 The trench locations were surveyed in by MoLAS Surveyors, based on a trench location plan supplied by URL (drawing number 400-DGH-08110-00015-AA). Two trenches, 3037TT and 3038TT, were relocated on site as they would have cut the public footpaths passing through this area of the field. Trench 3037TT was moved 5.00m to the east and 3038TT was moved 5.00m to the west. They were surveyed in using tapes.

3.2.2 The trenches have been plotted on Fig 2 from digital information provided by URL using an AutoCAD graphics programme. The trenches are located on the URL site grid.

3.2.3 Individual features in trenches were planned at 1:20, taking as a grid the line between the two survey pegs used to mark out the trench. Sections were also positioned using these grid lines. The survey pegs were accurately positioned and marked out the western side of a north to south trench or the southern side of an east to west trench.

3.3 Excavation

3.3.1 The area evaluated at East of Pluckley Road was orientated north-west to south-east and was 750m long by 100m wide, at the eastern end, and 240m wide at the western. In this area 37 trenches, 30m in length, were excavated which represented a little less than 1% of the total area.

3.3.2 The excavation commenced in the western field and moved eastwards across both fields.

3.3.3 The trenches were excavated using a 360^{o} tracked excavator with a flat bladed bucket 2.00m wide. The trenches were excavated to the natural sands or to a depth of 1.20m.

3.3.4 A sample area at each end of all the trenches was hand cleaned to ensure that the stratigraphy could be accurately recorded. Where necessary greater lengths of the trenches were hand cleaned to determine stratigraphic relationships, and investigate archaeological and geological features.

3.3.5 Where encountered, archaeological features were either half-sectioned (in the case of pits) or fully excavated where they entered a trench. Sample slots were excavated across linear features and environmental samples were taken from pit and ditch fills.

3.4 Recording

3.4.1 Recording was by the standard Museum of London single context recording system but with modifications to adapt the system to the large area under evaluation. Where a layer was judged to be the same in two or more trenches the same context number was used, if there was any doubt as to the equality of the layer a new context number was issued. In addition a trench sheet was completed for each trench, on the reverse of which a sketch plan and section of the entire trench length was drawn with measurements.

3.4.2 Plans were drawn at 1:20; sections/profiles drawn at 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50.

3.4.3 All trenches were levelled, each trench having a Temporary Bench Mark incorporated onto one of the survey marker pegs.

3.4.4 The trenches were photographed incorporating a scale, title board with the URL trench number and a north arrow. Individual features and sections were photographed with a scale only.

4 RESULTS: GENERAL

4.1 Western area between 3036TT and 1630TT

4.1.1 Evidence for Roman activity was recorded in the form of a 'V'-shaped ditch orientated north-east to south-west that followed the 92.00m OD contour, passing through 1628TT and 3037TT. Near to the ditch, in 1628TT, was a large quarry pit. These features were sealed by a gravel-flint layer that appeared to be of limited extent (in both 1628TT and 3037TT). Although not interpreted as such on site, it is possible that the ditch was associated with a Roman road represented by the gravel layer; which might have represented the disturbed remains of road make-up. The quarry pit could have been dug to collect re-surfacing material for the possible road. The pottery collected from the topsoil in this area was all Roman.

4.1.2 Further down the slope, in 1629TT, a circular pit containing prehistoric pottery was excavated. It may represent short-term occupation and might be associated with the quarrying seen to the east (4.2).

4.2 Western area between 1631TT and 1644TT

4.2.1 Two cut features, possibly large postholes, were sealed by modern topsoil in 1633TT. These features were cut from about 77.00m OD and a struck flint and iron working waste was found in their fills. Further to the south, in 1639TT a large quarry pit was partially excavated. Two further quarry pits, containing struck flint and prehistoric pottery were located in 1637TT.

4.2.2 The quarry pit in 1639TT contained a charcoal layer overlying natural infilling.

4.3 Eastern area between 1646TT and 1660TT

4.3.1 This area revealed a possible Iron Age - Roman quarry pit and evidence for medieval to post-medieval field systems.

4.3.2 As the field systems were only recorded in this area, it suggests that Oakover Lane may be on the line of a medieval lane. The pottery collected from this field was medieval, ranging from 900 to 1300.

4.3.3 At least three phases of ditch/furrows were recorded represented by boundary ditches. The topsoil around 1657TT contained a concentration of medieval pottery fragments, possibly representing a disturbed area of domestic dumping. Three small pits, two in 1657TT and one in 1654TT, of medieval or post-medieval date were full of charcoal, one of which contained many charred seed grains. All the features in this field had been badly truncated by ploughing.

5 TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

5.1 Western area between 3036TT and 1630TT

Trenches 1627TT, 1628TT, 1629TT 1630TT, 3036TT, 3037TT and 3038TT.

5.1.1 The area of high ground, within the evaluation limits at the western end of the site, measured approximately 50m x 100m and was between 96.35m OD (1627TT) and 97.09m OD (3036TT). From here the land sloped down, over a distance of *c* 130m, to 79.60m OD at the southern end of 1630TT.

5.1.2 Superficial geology consisted of yellow orange sands [3] with iron panning and staining.

- At 3036TT sand [3] was 1.20m below present ground level;
- At the western end of 1627TT sand [3] was directly underneath the topsoil [1], at the southern end of 1627TT it was 0.80m below present ground level;
- At 1628TT sand [3] was 0.55m below present ground surface;
- At 3037TT sand [3] was 0.80m below present ground surface;
- At 3038TT sand [3] was 1.30m below present ground surface;
- At 1629TT sand [3] was not reached at 1.40m below present ground surface;
- At 1630TT sand [3] was 1.20m below present ground surface.

5.1.3 At 1627TT and 3036TT sand [3] was overlain by banded blue green weathered clays and silts [2] and [16] which were up to 0.96m deep in 3036TT and badly truncated in 1627TT. Overlying the deposit [16], in 3036TT and 3037TT, was a layer of flint and clay Head [15] filling hollows in a Peri-glacial patterned landscape.

5.1.4 On the sides of the hill, in 1629TT, 1630TT and 3038TT sand [3] was overlain by a mid - light brown clay silt with occasional flint gravel lenses [19], [20], [35] and [42] and was between 0.35 - 0.40m thick. Overlying this layer was a mid to light brown sandy silt [34] and [41] between 0.15m and 0.47m thick.

5.1.5 In 1629TT (Fig 3) a circular pit [33] was excavated measuring 2.00m in diameter and 0.45m deep with concave sides. It contained two fills; a light brown silty clay [32] with occasional pottery and daub flecks overlain by a mid - dark brown sandy silty clay [31] with occasional metalworking waste, pottery and charcoal fragments/flecks. Four fragments of prehistoric pottery were retrieved from the pit.

5.1.6 In 1628TT (Fig 4) and 3037TT (Fig 5) a 'V' shaped ditch [6]=[38] was recorded orientated north-east to south-west which followed the 92.00m OD contour for approximately 100m. Ditch [6]=[38] was filled with a compact light grey brown silty sand [5], [11] and [37] which contained moderate flint gravels, occasional pottery, metalworking waste, charcoal and daub flecks. Twelve sherds of Roman pottery were retrieved from the ditch. A further two sherds of Roman pottery were recovered from the topsoil in this hilltop area.

5.1.7 A pit [10] was excavated in 1628TT (Fig 4) which had an irregular shape in plan and measured 2.10m long by at least 1m deep. It was filled with a mid - light brown silty sand [9] with moderate flint gravels and occasional charcoal and daub flecks. It has

been interpreted as a quarry pit. Cutting pit [10] was a smaller cut [8] (only recorded in section) which measured 0.74m north to south and 0.51m deep which was filled with a light brown silty sand [7] with moderate flint gravels and occasional charcoal flecks.

5.1.8 The archaeological features in 1628TT and 3037TT were sealed beneath a compact layer of flints and gravels bonded by compact light brown silty sand [4], up to 0.30m thick. This layer only appeared in 1628TT and 3037TT and might represent a ploughed make-up for a road, situated to the west of the ditch [6]=[38].

5.1.9 In 1629TT pit [33] was sealed beneath 0.35m of light brown sandy silts [30] (which may correspond to mid - light brown sandy silts [41] in 3038TT) and a 0.35m thick deposit of light brown sandy silt [29] (which may correspond to mid - light brown silty clay [40], 0.27m thick, in 3038TT).

5.1.10 Evidence of a recent hedgerow, aligned north to south, was found in cuts [21] (1630TT) and [31] (3037TT). A tree bole [14] filled with [13] was excavated in 1628TT. A sandy clay [18] (up to 0.40m deep) was recorded in 1630TT which may represent colluvium.

5.1.11 Topsoil (dark grey brown ploughsoil) [1] was visible in all trenches and was 0.30m to 0.35m thick.

5.2 Western area between 1631TT and 1644TT

Trenches 1631TT to 1644TT

5.2.1 The land surface sloped very gently down over a distance of *c* 240m from 79.34m OD at 1631TT to 72.64m OD at 1644TT.

5.2.2 Natural sands [3] were recorded at approximately 1.00m below present ground level in this area. In 1637TT (Fig 5) a layer of iron pan [63] (0.20m thick) capped the natural sands.

5.2.3 Natural sands [3] were overlain by a clean orange gritty deposit numbered [25], [28], [50], [56], [58] which formed a layer up to 0.50m thick. Occasionally this gritty layer was confined to hollows in the surface of sands [3].

5.2.4 Overlying the gritty layer in trenches 1631TT to 1634TT was a sterile mid brown silty clay [24]and [49] with occasional flint gravels. This deposit varied from between 0.15m to 0.55m thick.

5.2.5 In 1637TT (Fig 7) two pits [60] and [62] were partly exposed. These pits may have been dug to extract an unusually thick iron pan layer [63] that occurred in this limited area. Pit [60] was 3m by 1.50m and 0.60m deep. It was filled with a mid reddish brown silty sand [59] with occasional charcoal flecks, struck flints and prehistoric pottery. Pit [62] lay at the edge of excavation and was filled with a mid reddish brown silty sand [61] with occasional charcoal flecks.

5.2.6 A further partly exposed quarry pit [103] was recorded cutting the natural sands in 1639TT (Fig 6). The cut crossed the southern limit of the trench and was excavated to

a depth of 0.70m. The lowest recorded fill [102] was composed of a mid yellowish brown silty sand and probably represented a natural accumulation. A secondary charcoal rich fill [36] was sampled. Further backfills consisted of a clean reddish brown silty sand [101] overlain by a light yellowish brown silty sand [100] and finally by dark brown silty sand [99] and light yellowish brown silty sand [98]. With the exception of [36], these fills appeared to be natural accumulations.

5.2.7 A thick layer of light grey to red brown silty sand [22], [26], [48] and [57] (up to 0.60m thick) was recorded in all trenches and may represent a subsoil sealed by the topsoil. Dispersed within this layer were small pieces of abraded prehistoric pottery, flint flakes and daub flecks.

5.2.8 Cutting the subsoil and sealed by the topsoil in trench 1633TT (Fig 8) were two possible postholes [52] (0.10m x 0.06m) and [54] (0.04m diameter). The two fills were identical and composed of mid brown silty sand [51] and [53]. Fill [51] contained a struck flint flake and fill [53] contained a lump of slag, possibly used as post packing.

5.2.9 Evidence for the removal of a recent hedgerow [23], aligned north to south was recorded in 1631TT.

5.2.10 All trenches in this area contained dark grey brown topsoil [1] (0.30m thick) containing glass fragments and metal working waste. It is not known if the glass waste was derived from the use of the natural sand [3], or if the metalworking waste was derived from the local iron pan deposits.

5.3 Eastern area between 1646TT and 1660TT

General

5.3.1 As all the medieval activity was confined to the area to the east of Oakover Lane it is suggested that the lane itself may date from the medieval period.

5.3.2 The stratigraphy in this field consisted of natural sands sloping down towards the stream to the east. In the central and eastern parts of the field sand [3] was recorded between 0.55m and 0.70m below the present ground surface. It was overlain by a plough soil between 0.15m and 0.40m thick which was sealed by a 0.30m thick layer of topsoil.

5.3.3 Many field boundary ditches were recorded in this area although a clear pattern and phasing could not be defined. It was clear that the plough soil had been tilled since the medieval period, with more recent ploughing removing the tops of the earlier ditches.

Trenches 1646TT, 1650TT to 1663TT

5.3.4 The present ground surface slopes down over a distance of approximately 200m west to east from 70.69m OD at 1646TT to 67.22m OD at 1660TT. From north to south the ground surface slopes down over a distance of 200m from 69.30m OD at 1658TT to 65.61m OD at 1663TT.

5.3.5 Natural sand [3] were recorded in 1646TT, 1650TT, 1651TT, 1652TT and 1663TT, approximately 1.00m below the present ground surface; in the other trenches natural sand was below the lowest limit of excavation. A clean light orange brown sandy silt [66], [72], [79], [80], [83] containing moderate to frequent grits, flint nodules and gravels, was recorded in all trenches (except 1646TT), overlying sand [3]. This layer had a maximum visible depth 0.86m. Overlying this gritty layer in 1650TT, 1653TT, 1654TT and 1656TT, a layer of light greenish grey silty clay sand [71], [70] 0.18m to 0.30m thick, had been deposited, probably by the stream to the east.

5.3.6 A rectangular pit [111], 2.55m by 1.60m and 0.15m deep, and a circular tree bole [109], 1.20m in diameter and 0.15m deep, were recorded cutting natural sand [3] in 1646TT (Fig 8). Fill [110] of pit [111] and fill [108] of cut [109] were composed of clean mid grey to orange brown sandy silts. No finds were recovered and the features remain undated. Cut [111] did not appear to be associated with a lens of iron pan, and may have been dug to quarry the sand. The appearance of being sealed by layer [69] (see below) may be due to plough action removing the upper parts of these features.

The ditches

5.3.7 Two types of ditch were recorded as cutting natural and being sealed by plough soil. Type 1 is wide (1.40m to 2.80m) with shallow a concave sides gradually terminating in a rounded bottom and Type 2 is narrower (0.70m to 1.00m) with steep sides and a flat bottom. It is probable that these ditches represented two phases of field boundary that have subsequently been truncated by more recent ploughing. Type 1 ditches occur in 1651TT, 1653TT, 1656TT, 1659TT and Type 2 ditches occur in 1650TT, 1654TT, 1655TT, 1657TT.

Type 1: 1651TT, 1653TT, 1656TT, 1659TT.

5.3.8 Cutting sterile layer [66] in 1651TT (Fig 9) was a possible field boundary ditch [105] (rounded base; 1.40m wide x 0.20m deep), orientated north-west to south-east. The fill [104] was composed of a mid grey brown sandy silt, indistinguishable from the overlying layer [69]. The appearance of being sealed by layer [69] may be due to plough action removing the upper parts of ditch [105].

5.3.9 Cutting sterile layer [71] in 1653TT (Fig 9) was a possible field boundary ditch [78] (rounded base; 1.40m wide x 0.20m deep), orientated north-west to south-east. The fill [77] was composed of a mid grey brown sandy silt, indistinguishable from the overlying layer [69]. The appearance of being sealed by layer [69] may be due to plough action removing the upper parts of ditch [78].

5.3.10 Cutting sterile layer [83] in 1656TT and 1659TT (Fig 10) was a possible field boundary ditch [88] (rounded base; 2.40m wide x 0.20m deep), orientated north-east to south-west. The exposed areas in 1656TT and 1659TT were 40.00m apart. The fill [87] was composed of a mid grey brown sandy silt, indistinguishable from the overlying layer [69]. The appearance of being sealed by layer [69]/[89] may be due to plough action removing the upper parts of ditch [88]. Ditch [88] and fill [87] were very similar to ditch [82] and fill [81] in 1663TT.

5.3.11 Cutting sterile layer [83] in 1663TT (Fig 11) was a possible field boundary ditch [82] (rounded base; *c* 2.80m wide x 0.20m deep), orientated north to south. The fill [81]

was composed of a dark grey brown sandy silt, with frequent flint gravel, indistinguishable from the overlying layer [84]. The appearance of being sealed by layer [84] may be due to plough action removing the upper parts of ditch [83]. Ditch [82] and fill [81] are very similar to ditch [88] and fill [87] in 1656TT and 1659TT.

Type 2: 1650TT, 1654TT, 1655TT, 1657TT.

5.3.12 Cutting sterile layer [71] in 1650TT (Fig 12) was a field boundary ditch [68] (flat base; 0.70m wide x 0.30m deep), orientated north-east to south-west. The fill [67] was composed of a mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate to frequent flint gravels. The appearance of being sealed by layer [69] (see below) may be due to plough action removing the upper parts of ditch [68].

5.3.13 Cutting sterile layer [71] in 1654TT (Fig 12) was a field boundary ditch [75] (flat base; 0.90m wide x 0.10m deep), orientated north-east to south-west. The fill [74] was composed of a mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate to frequent flint gravels. The appearance of being sealed by layer [69] (see below) may be due to plough action removing the upper parts of ditch [68].

5.3.14 Cutting sterile layer [83] in 1655TT (Fig 13) was a field boundary ditch [107] (flat base; 1.00m wide x 0.30m deep), orientated north to south. The fill [106] was composed of a mid grey brown sandy silt with moderate to frequent flint gravels. The ditch was directly sealed by modern topsoil [1], layer [69] being apparently truncated at this end of the trench.

5.3.15 Cutting sterile layer [83] in 1657TT (Fig 13) was a possible ditch [95] (flat base; 0.50m wide x 0.11m deep), orientated north-west to south-east. Ditch [95] appeared to terminate to the south-east but it is more likely that it has been ploughed out. The fill [94] was composed of a mid to dark brown silty clay, indistinguishable from the overlying layer [93]. The appearance of being sealed by layer [93] may be due to plough action removing the upper parts of possible ditch [95].

Tree boles in 1652TT and plough soil in all trenches

5.3.16 Two tree boles [64] and [65] were recorded in 1652TT (Fig 14). Both were circular in shape and 1.30m to 1.40m in diameter x 0.20m deep. They were filled with a dark brown silty clay with flints. The fill of [65] contained part of an iron knife.

5.3.17 As the ditches were thought to represent field boundaries, it follows that [69], [84], [89], [90], [93] may be ploughsoil. In general this ploughsoil was a mid orange brown sandy silt, but towards the stream the colour became slightly darker and the frequency of the flint gravel inclusions became greater. Occasional worked flints were found in this 0.18 to 0.38m deep layer. It is probable that post-medieval plough action has truncated the tops of all the Type 1 and Type 2 ditches described above, however, two ditches (in 1657TT and 1661TT) and two shallow, charcoal filled features (in 1654TT and 1657TT) cut the plough soil.

Features recorded cutting the plough soil, 1654TT, 1657TT, 1661TT and recent activity

5.3.18 Cutting the plough soil [93] in 1657TT (Fig 13) was a large ditch [92] orientated north-east to south-west. This ditch had a profile 1.60m wide at the top, 0.26m wide at the base (the western side being steep, the eastern being stepped) and was 0.30m deep. The fill [91] was a mid to light grey silty clay with yellow mottling and may have been water laid.

5.3.19 Cutting the plough soil [84] in 1661TT (Fig 14) was a ditch [86] (flat base; 1.08m wide and 0.17m deep), orientated east to west, filled with a dark greyish brown silt [85] with occasional chalk flecks and charcoal.

5.3.20 A shallow feature [97]; 0.50m wide and 0.15m deep with flat base, was recorded cutting the plough soil [93] immediately to the west of ditch [92] in 1657TT. It was recorded in section and was filled with a mid grey brown silty clay [96] containing moderate amounts of ash and charcoal. This cut and fill was similar to shallow cut [76] (flat base; 0.42m wide x 0.10m deep) in 1654TT, which was filled with light brown silty clay [73] containing frequent charcoal flecks, some carbonised seed grains, occasional pottery fragments and burnt flint. The function of these cuts and fills is not known.

5.3.21 In 1660TT evidence for the removal of a hedgerow, aligned with the north to south stream and an extension of the field eastwards, was recorded within a very disturbed plough soil [90] and two dark grey topsoils separated by modern debris (plastic bags).

5.3.22 Topsoil was recorded in all trenches and was 0.30m thick. In the area around 1656TT, 1657TT and 1658TT 18 sherds of medieval pottery, dating from 900 to 1300 and some worked flints were collected from the topsoil. Pottery of this date had also been collected during previous archaeological survey in this area, but the only evidence for occupation comes from the shallow, charcoal filled cuts [76] 1654TT and [97] 1657TT. If there was any direct occupation of this area the evidence for it appears to have been mostly removed by modern ploughing.

6 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVENTORIES

6.1 Table 1: Events dataset

EVENT_NAME:East of Pluckley Road
EVENT CODE:ARC PRD 97
EVENT_TYPE:Evaluation
CONTRACTOR:Museum of London Archaeology Service
DATE:9/5/97 - 21/5/97
GRID:74832 27556 (CTRL grid)
PROJECT:CTRL
COUNTY:Kent
DISTRICT:Ashford
PARISH:
SMR:
SITE_TYPE:CL3
PERIOD:Prehistoric, Roman, medieval, post-medieval
METHOD:Mechanical excavation of the topsoil, hand excavation and recording of the archaeological features
PHASING:Prehistoric quarrying and pitting, Roman ditch and quarrying, medieval pitting and field systems (boundary ditches)
ENVIRON:Some charred medieval seed grains
FINDS:Prehistoric, Roman and medieval pottery, some struck flints, part of a ?medieval iron knife
GEOLOGY:Folkestone beds - sand
CONTEXT_NUM:1-111
THREAT:CTRL
SAMPLE:<1%
SUMMARY: Dispersed prehistoric quarrying and some pitting. North-east to south-west Roman ditch, possibly associated with a road; three phases of medieval to post-medieval field boundary ditches.
ARCHIVE:
ACC_NUM:

6.2 Table 2: Archaeological context inventory

TRENCH	CONTEXT	TYPE	PERIOD	ASSOCIATION	COMMENTS
Site	1	Deposit	Modern		Topsoil
1627TT	2	Deposit	Unknown		
Site	3	Deposit			Natural sand
1628TT	4	Deposit	?Roman		
1628TT	5	Deposit	Roman	6	Fill of Ditch 5
1628TT	6	Cut	Roman	5	V' shaped ditch, same as 12, 38
1628TT	7	Deposit	?Roman	8	Fill of pit 8
1628TT	8	Cut	?Roman	7	Pit
1628TT	9	Deposit	Roman	10	Fill of quarry 10
1628TT	10	Cut	Roman	9	Quarry
1628TT	11	Deposit	Roman	12	Fill of Ditch 12
1628TT	12	Cut	Roman	11	Ditch, Same as 6, 38
1628TT	13	Deposit	?Roman	14	Fill of 14
1628TT	14	Cut	?Roman	13	Tree bole 14
3036TT, 3037TT	15	Deposit			Weathered natural
3036TT	16	Deposit			Weathered natural
3036TT	17	Drain	Modern		Modern
1630TT	18	Deposit	?Post prehistoric		Layer
1630TT	19	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1630TT	20	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1630TT	21	Hedge line	Modern		Modern grubbed out hedgeline

TRENCH	CONTEXT	TYPE	PERIOD	ASSOCIATION	COMMENTS
1631TT, 1632TT	22	Deposit	Modern		Layer
1631TT	23	Cut	Modern		Modern grubbed out hedgeline
1631TT, 1632TT	24	Deposit	Prehistoric to medieval		Layer
1631TT, 1632TT, 1638TT, 1639TT, 1640TT, 1641TT	25	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1638TT, 1639TT, 1640TT, 1641TT, 1642TT	26	Deposit	Prehistoric to medieval		Layer
1640TT, 1642TT	27	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1640TT, 1642TT	28	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1629TT	29	Deposit	?Medieval		Layer
1629TT	30	Deposit	?Roman		Layer
1629TT	31	Deposit	Prehistoric	34	Fill of Pit 33
1629TT	32	Deposit	Prehistoric	34	Fill of Pit 33
1629TT	33	Cut	Prehistoric	31, 32	Pit 33
1629TT	34	Deposit	Prehistoric		Layer
1629TT	35	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1639TT	36	Deposit	?Prehistoric	103	Fill o f quarry 103
3037TT	37	Cut	Roman	38	Fill of 38
3037TT	38	Cut	Roman	37	Ditch 38, same as 6

TRENCH	CONTEXT	TYPE	PERIOD	ASSOCIATION	COMMENTS
3037TT	39	Deposit	Modern		Modern grubbed out hedgeline
3038TT	40	Deposit	Unknown		Layer
3038TT	41	Deposit	Unknown		Layer
3038TT	42	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
3038TT	43	Field drain	Modern		Modern Field drain
3038TT	44	Field drain	Modern		Modern Field drain
1629TT	45	Field drain	Modern		Modern Field drain
1629TT	46	Field drain	Modern		Modern Field drain
1629TT	47	Field drain	Modern		Modern Field drain
1633TT, 1634TT, 1635TT	48	Deposit	?Post Roman		Layer
1633TT, 1634TT	49	Deposit	?Prehistoric		Layer
1633TT, 1635TT, 1643TT, 1645TT	50	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1633TT	51	Deposit	?Medieval	52	Fill of pit 52
1633TT	52	Cut	?Medieval	51	Pit 52
1633TT	53	Deposit	?Medieval	54	Fill of posthole 54
1633TT	54	Cut	?Medieval	53	Posthole 54
1634TT	55	Tree bole	Modern		Tree bole
1635TT, 1636TT	56	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer

TRENCH	CONTEXT	TYPE	PERIOD	ASSOCIATION	COMMENTS
1636,TT 1637TT, 1643TT, 1644TT, 1645TT	57	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1637TT, 1643TT	58	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1637TT	59	Deposit	Prehistoric	60	Fill of quarry 60
1637TT	60	Cut	Prehistoric	59	Quarry 60
1637TT	61	Deposit	Prehistoric	62	Fill of quarry 62
1637TT	62	Cut	Prehistoric	61	Quarry 62
1637TT	63	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1652TT	64	Tree bole	?Medieval		Tree bole
1652TT	65	Tree bole	?Medieval		Tree bole
1652TT	66	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1650TT	67	Deposit	?Medieval	66	Fill of cut 66
1650TT	68	Cut	?Medieval	65	?Field boundary 66
1646TT, 1650TT, 1651TT, 1653TT, 1654TT, 1655TT, 1656TT, 166TT2	69	Deposit	Finds from prehistoric and medieval		Layer- subsoil
1650TT	70	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1650TT, 1653TT, 1654TT, 1656TT	71	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1650TT, 1653TT, 1654TT	72	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer

TRENCH	CONTEXT	TYPE	PERIOD	ASSOCIATION	COMMENTS
1654TT	73	Cut	?Medieval		Small scoop shaped cut and burnt fill
1654TT	74	Deposit	?Medieval	75	Fill of 75
1654TT	75	Cut	?Medieval	74	?Field boundary 75
1654TT	76	Cut	?Medieval		?Field boundary 76
1653TT	77	Deposit	?Medieval	78	Fill of 78
1653TT	78	Cut	?Medieval	77	?Field boundary 78
1653TT, 1654TT, 1662TT	79	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1653TT, 1662TT	80	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1663TT	81	Deposit	?Medieval	82	Fill of 82
1663TT	82	Cut	?Medieval	81	?Field boundary 82
1655TT, 1656TT, 1657TT, 1658TT, 1659TT, 1660TT, 166TT1, 1663TT	83	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1659TT, 1661TT, 1663TT	84	Deposit	?Glacial		Layer
1661TT	85	Deposit	?Medieval - post-medieval	86	Fill of 86
1661TT	86	Cut	?Medieval - post-medieval	85	?Field boundary 86

TRENCH	CONTEXT	TYPE	PERIOD	ASSOCIATION	COMMENTS
1656TT, 1659TT	87	Deposit	?Medieval - post-medieval	88	Fill of 88
1656TT, 1660TT	88	Cut	?Medieval - post-medieval	87	Large shallow ditch 88
1659TT	89	Deposit	?Medieval - post-medieval		Layer
1660TT	90	Deposit	?Medieval - post-medieval		Layer
1657TT	91	Deposit	?Post-medieval	92	Fill of 92
1657TT	92	Cut	?Post-medieval	91	Ditch 92
1657TT, 1658TT	93	Deposit	Medieval - post-medieval		Layer
1657TT	94	Deposit	?Medieval	95	Fill of 95
1657TT	95	Cut	?Medieval	94	?Field boundary 95
1657TT	96	Deposit	?Post-medieval	97	Fill of 97
1657TT	97	Cut	?Post-medieval	96	Scoop shaped cut 97
1639TT	98	Deposit	?Prehistoric	103	Fill of quarry 103
1639TT	99	Deposit	?Prehistoric	103	Fill of quarry 103
1639TT	100	Deposit	?Prehistoric	103	Fill of quarry 103

TRENCH	CONTEXT	TYPE	PERIOD	ASSOCIATION	COMMENTS
1639TT	101	Deposit	?Prehistoric	103	Fill of quarry 103
1639TT	102	Deposit	?Prehistoric	103	Fill of quarry 103
1639TT	103	Cut	?Prehistoric	36, 98, 99, 100, 101, 102	Quarry pit 103
1651TT	104	Deposit	?Medieval	105	Fill of 105
1651TT	105	Cut	?Medieval	104	?Field boundary 105
1655TT	106	Deposit	?Post-medieval	107	Fill of 107
1655TT	107	Cut	?Post-medieval	106	?Field boundary 107
1646TT	108	Deposit	Unknown	109	Fill of 109
1646TT	109	Cut	Unknown	108	?Tree bole 109
1646TT	110	Deposit	?Prehistoric	111	Fill of 111
1646TT	111	Cut	?Prehistoric	110	Quarry 111

SECTION 2: STATEMENT OF IMPORTANCE

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1 Extent of archaeological remains

7.1.1 A prehistoric pit, possibly Iron Age, was excavated on the hillside in 1629TT suggesting that additional features might exist on this slope. It is possible that the pit belongs to the same phase of activity as the quarry pits recorded at the foot of the hillside. The quarry pits were recorded in 1637TT and 1639TT and more dispersed pits could be expected in this area.

7.1.2 There is a slight possibility that a section of Roman road, orientated north-east to south-west crosses the western area of the site. A Roman ditch and quarry pit, recorded in 1628TT and 3037TT, may be associated with a layer of gravelly subsoil, possibly the degraded road itself. The straight ditch was excavated along the 92.00m OD contour.

7.1.3 The eastern area, between 1646TT and 1660TT, shows signs of at multiple phases of medieval to post-medieval field layout. The implication is that Oakover Lane is of medieval origin, presumably leading to a medieval farmstead. This farmstead may possibly be located in the area of the existing Oakover nursery (the area of the cancelled trenches 1647TT to 1649TT) or beyond the limit of the evaluation site.

7.1.4 Apart from the field ditches in the eastern part of the site, archaeological features were recorded in 1646TT (an undated quarry pit) and 1654TT and 1657TT (two small, shallow cuts filled with charcoal).

7.2 Nature of archaeological remains

7.2.1 The archaeological remains fall into four types

- Area of Roman hilltop activity implied by a 'V' shaped ditch passing through 1628TT and 3037TT and pits in 1628TT. It is possible that this activity relates to a possible Roman road orientated north-east to south-west, situated to the west of the ditch.
- Area of dispersed prehistoric pitting on the hillslope as seen by the pit in 1629TT.
- Area of dispersed prehistoric quarrying as seem by large rectangular pits cut into the natural in 1637TT, 1639TT and 1646TT.
- Area of medieval to post-medieval agricultural activity as seen by multiple phases of field layout in the field to the east of Oakover Lane, 1646TT, 1650TT to 1663TT.

7.3 Character of the remains

7.3.1 The Late Iron Age - Early Roman archaeological remains were characterised by cut features (quarry pits, pits with a purpose unknown and a ditch).

7.3.2 The medieval to Post-medieval remains were all in the eastern field and were characterised by three phases of field boundary ditches and two small cuts filled with medieval pottery recovered from the ploughsoil.

7.4 Date of occupation

7.4.1 Different parts of the site have been occupied at different times. The earliest recorded activity is represented by prehistoric quarrying and occasional pitting. The pits appear to be located to extract iron pan rich deposits and sand suggesting that long term on-site settlement is unlikely. However, it is possible that short term occupation may have occurred within or near to the site and this might be represented by the pit in 1629TT and the charcoal in quarry pit [103] 1639TT.

7.4.2 During the Roman period a ditch was dug just below the hilltop, along the 92.00m OD contour, across the western area of the site. It is possible that this ditch was associated with a road. The ditch appears to fall out of use during the Roman period.

7.4.3 The eastern field has been used, probably for agriculture, since the medieval period. Many field boundary ditches indicate a changing pattern of field layout continuing until the present day.

7.5 Environmental evidence

7.5.1 Charred cereal remains were restricted to a single sample from a charcoal filled feature sealed by the topsoil. The assemblage may provide information on the range of cereals used and possibly aspects of crop husbandry from the evidence of the weed seeds; the analysis of the internal composition of the sample may also establish whether the sample represents the residues from a particular stage or stages of crop-processing.

7.5.2 Other environmental samples from cut features were of limited use.

7.6 Truncation by ploughing and other activities

7.6.1 The hilltop area to the west of the site may have suffered modern levelling and truncation, especially towards the present Pluckley road.

7.6.2 A number of presumably post-medieval hedgerows have been grubbed out involving some deeper excavation but these works do not appear to have seriously affected the archaeological remains.

7.6.3 In the eastern field post-medieval ploughing appears to have truncated the upper parts of two phases of field boundary ditches, themselves probably dating to the medieval

period. Modern ploughing appears to have truncated the tops of the third phase of ditch, and possible pit digging.

7.6.4 Apart from the above truncations the site is, in general, undisturbed.

8 IMPORTANCE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS

8.1 Survival and condition

8.1.1 The prehistoric activity on the slope and flat area in the western field appear to survive, sealed below relatively undisturbed layers. The features themselves are clearly visible.

8.1.2 The Roman cut features near the western hilltop survive quite well and are themselves clearly visible and relatively untruncated. If the gravel and flint, recorded overlying the linear ditch, represents the remains of a Roman road it implies that the road itself may not survive very well. Any positive features in this area would have been struck by ploughs and the gravel could have dispersed over a wide area.

8.1.3 The remains of the medieval to post-medieval field system appear to survive in a relatively complete state in the eastern field.

8.1.4 Abraded pottery sherds were located in two of the four possibly prehistoric cut features. The Roman cut features mostly contained numerous pottery sherds. Pottery was generally absent from the medieval field ditches and from the plough soil in the eastern field. A concentration of medieval pottery was recovered from the topsoil in the area around 1656TT, 1657TT and 1658TT.

8.1.5 Struck flints were mostly recovered from the topsoil and plough soil in both eastern and western fields. A large flake was recovered from quarry pit [59] in 1637TT.

8.1.6 The majority of environmental samples were of limited use, but a concentration of charred cereal seeds was recovered from a single sample from 1654TT (<4>, [73]).

8.2 Period

8.2.1 The periods represented are:

- prehistoric, probably Iron Age, as some of the quarry pits appear to be located to extract Iron Pan rich deposits;
- Roman, possibly associated with a road that may go out of use during the Roman - Late Roman period;
- medieval, dated by pottery from the 10th-11th centuries until the 14th century associated with the field systems in the eastern field;
- post-medieval glass and metalworking waste dumped in the western field and recovered from the modern topsoil.

8.3 Rarity

8.3.1 The Iron Age is poorly understood in Kent and few centres for metalworking and settlement are known. The quarry pits recorded at East of Pluckley Road appear to have been located to extract Iron Pan from the upper parts of the natural Folkestone Beds sand. The pitting does not appear to be very intense and the pits themselves are not of a very large size. It is probable that the raw material extracted would have been transported to a metalworking area rather than it being established in the immediate area of the site. Temporary occupation of the site is possible as seen by the pit in 1629TT and the charcoal in quarry pit [103] 1639TT.

8.3.2 The discovery of a Roman ditch, associated either with a field boundary or a road may be important. The location of a possible Roman road at East of Newlands (ARC NEW 97) may support the interpretation of a road.

8.4 Fragility and vulnerability

8.4.1 The archaeological remains are generally of a fragile and delicate nature even though most are sealed by 0.60m to 0.70m of material. Major construction on the site would severely damage these features.

8.5 Diversity

8.5.1 The area of the evaluation showed a diversity of activities; prehistoric quarrying and pitting; Roman ditch digging and possible road construction and use; medieval field systems and farming practices. The three activities/periods were associated, in general, with different areas of the site:

- prehistoric quarrying and pitting located where natural sand is high and the concentration of Iron Pan fragments are greatest;
- Roman activity was recorded on the well drained high ground near the top of the western hill;
- medieval farming utilised the land bordering the stream to the east, ensuring a constant water supply for the crops.

8.6 Documentation

8.6.1 There is little documented evidence for the Iron Age in Kent and brief research has shown that the study of the Roman roads and land use in the area is limited.

8.7 Group value

8.7.1 The results from East of Pluckley Road are positive in that three different land uses occur in three different areas relating to the three different phases of activity on the site.

8.7.2 The area of prehistoric quarrying probably relates to metalworking at a nearby site.

8.7.3 If the Roman ditch relates to a Roman road then it may be associated with the main Dover to Rochester road (probably truncated by the M20 to the south of the East of Pluckley Road evaluation).

8.8 Potential

8.8.1 The potential for further work is limited as no intense land use was recorded. Further work in the area of quarrying will help identify the nature, type, duration and intensity of the quarrying activity; and identify whether any on-site occupation actually occurred.

8.8.2 Further work on the possible Roman ditch may help to identify its true nature, whether it is connected with a Roman road or some other feature or monument.

8.8.3 The possibility of clarifying the extent and nature of the medieval activity in the eastern field is good. It remains to be confirmed whether a medieval farmstead, associated with the medieval field ditches, is located within the limits of the evaluation, perhaps in the area of Oakover nursery. It should be noted that the concentration of medieval pottery recovered from the topsoil in this eastern field was mostly near to 1657TT possibly implying more intense activity in this area.

8.8.4 The potential for pottery recovery is also fairly good. From the prehistoric period two of the cut features partially excavated revealed pottery sherds. The Roman features contained numerous pottery sherds. Pottery from the medieval period was limited to the disturbed modern topsoil, but several types of domestic cooking vessels were identified.

8.8.5 The flint collected was of an undiagnostic nature and not specifically datable. An on-site source of flint gravels may have been the stream to the east but it seems that there is not a great potential for struck flint recovery.

8.8.6 The potential for environmental remains appears to be limited. Of the six samples taken only one revealed useful information (in the form of charred grain and weed seeds). The feature from which the sample was taken was sealed by modern topsoil and is probably of a medieval date.

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APPENDIX 1

Pottery
By Jonathan Cotton, R. P. Symonds & Roy Stephenson with Louise Rayner

1 Introduction

1.1 The evaluation produced a total of 39 sherds (208g) of prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and post-medieval date. The sherds are in poor condition; fragmentary with very abraded surfaces and edges. The average sherd weight is just over 5g. The pottery was examined using a x20 binocular microscope and recorded using standard MoLAS codes on pro-forma sheets. Quantification of the material was by sherd count and weight. Pottery was recorded from nine contexts.

Fabrics

1.2 The fabrics identified fall into five broad types. The fabrics have been defined on the basis of their inclusions or tempers and were not divided into defined fabric types. One sherd cannot be confidently assigned a date, context [87]. The inclusions include quartzite, igneous rock and sandstone?; minerals which are not present in the local geology, suggesting it is of non-local production. The sherd may date to the prehistoric or early Saxon period, but further work is required before this can be ascertained.

1.3 Table 3: Fabric groups

FABRIC	COUNT	WEIGHT	PERIOD
Flint-tempered fabrics (FLIN)	6 sherds	77g	Prehistoric
Grog-tempered fabric (GROG)	23 sherds	65g	Late Iron Age - early Romano-British
Sand-tempered fabric (SAND)	1 sherd	19g	Roman
Oxidised fine fabric (OXIDF)	9 sherds	21g	Roman
Quartzite & igneous rock fabric.	1 sherd,	26g	Uncertain - prehistoric or early Saxon
Early medieval shelly ware (EMSH)	15 sherd	180g	Medieval
Early medieval sand and shell ware (EMSS)	4 sherds	65g	Medieval
Early medieval sandy ware (EMS)	2 sherds	45g	Medieval
Limpsfield ware (LIMP)	7 sherds	106g	Medieval
Sand and shell ware (SSW)	1 sherd	10g	Medieval
Earlswood ware (Earl)	1 sherd	10g	Medieval
Unidentified ware (XX)	15 sherds	28g	Post-medieval

2 Forms

2.1 *Prehistoric & Roman* - The prehistoric and Roman assemblage consists solely of undiagnostic body sherds with the exception of one rim from a necked jar in a reduced sand-tempered fabric, context [1] 3036TT. A flint-tempered prehistoric sherd has one impression which may form part of some decoration, context [59] 1637TT. A grog-tempered sherd dating to the 1st century BC - 1st century AD has a furrowed surface, context [11] 1628TT.

2.2 *Medieval pottery* - The medieval pottery assemblage consists almost exclusively of abraded non-diagnostic sherds, the exception being a substantial portion of a cooking pot rim sherd from [94] 1657TT.

3 Chronology

3.1 Prehistoric and Roman - The flint-tempered sherds have been identified as prehistoric but cannot be more closely dated. Flint-tempered fabrics have a long tradition of use in East Kent, continuing throughout the Iron Age and well into the 1st century AD (Pollard 1988, 43). The grog-tempered fabrics have been dated to the late Iron Age - early Romano-British period and form part of the ceramic tradition commonly described as 'Belgic' or of 'Aylesford-Swarling' type. Grog-tempered fabrics were used, alongside flint-tempered, in the 1st century BC to the 1st century AD. The furrowed surface treatment identified on one sherd is a regional ceramic style indicative of east Kent in the late Iron Age (Pollard 1988, 31). The Roman sherds are unsourced fabric types and with such a small and undiagnostic assemblage cannot be dated more closely.

3.2 Medieval - The greater part of the assemblage is early medieval pottery that has been classified according to the degree of temper present (sand and shell). These are presumably all products of local kilns, there are some similarities with the assemblages from Eynsford Castle (McCarthy and Brookes 1988). Other non-local sherds originate in Surrey from Earlswood (Turner 1974) and Limpsfield (Prendergast 1974). The degree of a abrasion have left a number of sherds unidentified, mostly small sherds of coarse tempered wares.

4 General comments

4.1 The fabrics identified in this assemblage are consistent with our current understanding of the pottery of Kent for these periods. The most interesting aspect of the assemblage is the number of periods represented, suggesting the site was in use over a long period of time. However, with such a small and undiagnostic assemblage it is impossible to elucidate further on the relationship between these periods of activity or the nature of any settlement.

5 Assessment of potential and further work

5.1 The assemblage is of limited potential due to the small number of sherds dating to each period and the undiagnostic nature of the material. However, the site is clearly of interest and evidences another area of prehistoric and Roman activity. If further excavation was to take place, any resulting material could be considered with these sherds and form a more useful assemblage. Although these fabric types are well documented for this area, further assemblages are required to refine our understanding of their chronologies. The sherd of uncertain date would benefit from petrological analysis in order to identify and source the inclusions. Comparison with other assemblages may reveal evidence for other imported wares in the prehistoric or early Saxon periods.

6 Table 4: Bulk dataset, pottery

Key:

PH	Prehistoric
LIA - ERB	Late Iron Age to Early Romano-British
?MPOT	possibly Medieval pot

TRENCH	CONTEXT	MATERIAL	COUNT	WEIGHT	COMMENTS
1628TT	1	POT	1	7	Roman
1656TT	1	POT	1	35	Topsoil; 900-1050
1657TT	1	POT	13	185	Topsoil; 1000-1200
1658TT	1	POT	2	28	1150-1300
1659TT	1	POT	1	2	?MPOT
3036TT	1	POT	1	19	Roman
1628TT	5	POT	5	8	MPOT
1628TT	11	POT	10	26	LIA-ERB
1629TT	31	POT	4	35	PH, v. fragmentary
3037TT	37	POT	7	14	Roman
1643TT	57	POT	1	7	PH
1637TT	59	POT	1	35	PH
1654TT	73	POT	18	50	LIA-ERB, ?MPOT
1654TT	73	POT	3	4	Enviro Samp 4; ? MPOT
1659TT;	87	POT	1	26	PH or Early Saxon
1657TT	91	POT	2	10	1200-1400
1657TT	94	POT	13	150	1050-1150

APPENDIX 2

Building material
By Terence Paul Smith

1 Introduction

1.1 Only one definite piece of building material came from East of Pluckley Road. This was a fragment of daub. A tiny fragment of stone may or may not be building material.

2 Daub

2.1 A small fragment (some 5 gm) of daub was recovered from context [1]. It was in a fine brown fabric with little sand; it was too small to preserve wattle or other impressions.

3 Stone

3.1 Also from context [1] came a tiny (10 gm) fragment of tufa stone; it is not possible to be certain, with such a small fragment, whether it was building material or was used for some other purpose. No mortar was adhered to it.

4 Table 5: Bulk dataset, building material

TRENCH	CONTEXT	MATERIAL	COUNT	WEIGHT	COMMENTS
1631TT	1	CERAMIC BUILDING MATERIAL	2	760g	
1657TT	1	STONE	1	8g	Topsoil
1632TT	24	DAUB	1	2g	
1637TT	63	STONE?	1	160g	Enviro Samp 5

APPENDIX 3

Plant remains
By John Giorgi

1 Introduction

1.1 Six environmental soil samples were collected during the evaluation; five were assessed for the presence of charred plant remains, and one sample was taken for an assessment of the geological strata. The samples were taken from the following features: two pitfills ([31] sample<1>, [36] sample <2>) provisionally dated to the late Iron Age/early Roman period; a late Iron Age/early Roman ditch fill [37] (sample <3>); two fills [73] (sample <4>) and [91] (sample <6>) provisionally dated to the medieval period; and the geological sample from a natural deposit of sand with layers of iron panning [63] (sample <5>). The sample size was ten litres for samples <1>,<3>,<4> and <6>, nine litres for sample <2> and eight litres for sample <5>.

1.2 The aim of the assessment was to evaluate the quality of preservation and the abundance and diversity of charred plant remains in the samples and present recommendations on the analysis of the material and the potential for further sampling.

2 Methods

2.1 The samples were processed in a flotation machine using sieve sizes of 0.25mm and 1mm for the recovery of the flot and residue respectively. The residues were dried and sorted for biological and artefactual remains.

2.2 Once dried, the material from each flot was scanned under a binocular microscope. Modes of preservation, abundance and diversity of organic remains were noted. The results of the assessment are summarised in Table 6.

3 Results

3.1 *?Late Iron Age, early Roman pitfill [31] 1629TT (sample <1>, flot vol. 10ml.)*: The flot consisted entirely of flecks and small fragments of charcoal, which were also present in the residue. Occasional fragments of slag were also noted in the residue.

3.2 *?Late Iron Age, early Roman (quarry) pitfill [36] 1639TT(sample <2>, flot vol. 50 ml.).* This flot consisted virtually entirely of flecks and small fragments of charcoal, together with a moderate amount of root fragments. Charcoal was also present in the residue.

3.3 *Late Iron Age/Early Roman ditch fill [37] 3037TT (sample <3>, flot vol. 20ml):* This flot was similar to the previous sample with flecks and small fragments of charcoal, and root fragments. A few fragments of charcoal were also found in the residue.

3.4 *?Medieval fill [73] 1654TT (sample <4>, flot vol. 120ml.)*: The flot from this sample produced charred plant remains including cereal grains, eg. *Avena* spp. (oats) and *Triticum* spp. (wheats) and charred seeds of other plants including legumes and grasses, eg. *Bromus* sp. (brome) and cf. *Lolium* sp. (rye-grass). A large amount of charcoal fragments were also present in both the flot and residue, while occasional pottery fragments were also sorted from the residue.

3.5 *Iron pan layer [63] 1637TT (geological sample <5>)*: This sample was assessed by Graham Spurr. The iron pan formed on top of the sandy layer through translocation of iron down profile through the iron-rich overlying brickearth. It is not possible however to give a precise date to the formation of the deposit although it is assumed to be of great antiquity.

3.6 *?Medieval fill [91] 1657TT (sample <6>, flot vol. 20ml.)*: The flot consisted mainly of charcoal fragments together with occasional uncharred seeds, eg. *Chenopodium* sp. (goosefoot etc.), *Stellaria* sp. (chickweed/stitchwort), and fairly large quantities of root fragments. Charcoal fragments were also present in the residue plus a possible flint artefact.

4 Table 6: Summary of organic remains

Abundance was recorded as follows: + = 1-10 items, ++ = 11-100 items, +++ = >100 items

SAMPLE	1	2	3	4	6
CHARRED PLANT REMAINS					
Cereals				+++	
Other plants				++	
Charcoal	+++	+++	+++	+++	+++
UNCHARRED PLANT REMAINS					
Seeds of wild plants					+
Root fragments		++	++		+++

5 Statement of potential

5.1 The preservation of charred cereal remains was restricted to sample <4>. This assemblage may provide information on the range of cereals used and possibly aspects of crop husbandry from the evidence of the weed seeds; the analysis of the internal composition of the sample may also establish whether the sample represents the residues from a particular stage or stages of crop-processing. However, the fact that the material is derived from a feature in isolation limits the potential of the data although it can provide general information on the range of crops used and possibly an indication of human activities in this area in the medieval period. The remaining samples mainly consisted of charcoal, the identification of which will probably be of limited use, as this material appears to come from backfills and therefore cannot be directly related to the features from which the samples were recovered. Moreover, most of the sampled

features are dated by feature association rather than by direct dating. The few uncharred seeds in sample <6> are probably intrusive given the soil conditions at the site and the presence of large quantities of root fragments.

6 Recommendations

6.1 It is recommended that the charred cereal and weed seed assemblage from sample <4> should be sorted, quantified and analysed. Such a study, however, should only be carried out if the feature from which the sample was recovered is datable. The charred plant remains could then be compared to other archaeobotanical assemblages from sites in Kent.

7 Table 7: Environmental dataset

TRENCH	CONTEXT	SAMPLE	METHOD	SUMMARY	COMMENTS
1629TT	31	1	flotation (0.25mm sieve)	charcoal+++	charcoal of limted value because not primary fill
1639TT	36	2	flotation (0.25mm sieve)	charcoal+++ roots++	charcoal of limted value because not primary fill
3037TT	37	3	flotation (0.25mm sieve)	charcoal+++ roots++	charcoal of limited value because not primary fill
1654TT	73	4	flotation (0.25mm sieve)	charred grain+++; charred seeds++; charcoal +++	information on crop husbandry
1637TT	63	5	flotation (0.25mm sieve)	iron pan fragments	geological sample
1657TT	91	6	flotation (0.25mm sieve)	charcoal+++ uncharred seeds+;root fragments++	charcoal of limited value because not primary fill

APPENDIX 4

Flint
By Jonathan Cotton

1 Introduction

1.1 In all, eight pieces of struck flint were recovered, together with 17 pieces of burnt or worked flint. Four of the worked pieces were recovered from context [1], two from context [69] and single pieces from contexts [48] and [59].

1.2 The raw material appears to have come in the main from secondary ‘gravel ‘ sources.

1.3 The majority comprise flakes and spalls.

1.4 There are no particularly diagnostic or datable pieces present.

2 Table 8: Bulk dataset, flint

TRENCH	CONTEXT	MATERIAL	COUNT	WEIGHT	COMMENTS
1653TT	69	FLINT	1	4	
1662TT	69	FLINT	1	2	
1654TT	73	FLINT	6	12	Burnt Flint
1659TT	87	FLINT	3	28	
1657TT	91	FLINT	1	12	Enviro Sample

APPENDIX 5

Finds
By Jackie Keily, with Angela Wardle

1 Introduction

1.1 Only one small find was recovered from this site. Details of it are given in the table below.

2 Table 9: Metal Finds

TRENCH	CONTEXT	SPECIAL NO.	MATERIAL	OBJECT	PERIOD
1652TT	65	1	Iron	Knife	-

2.1 This is part of an iron knife blade.

3 Bulk finds

3.1 A number of fragments of bulk iron slag were also recovered from the site. These are detailed in the table below.

3.2 Table 10: Metalworking waste

TRENCH	CONTEXT	OBJECT	COUNT	
1628TT	9	Slag	1	
1632TT	24	Slag	9	
1629TT	31	Slag	5	
1629TT	31	Slag	3	from Enviro sample
1633TT	53	Slag	1	

4 Storage and curation

4.1 The small find requires storage in a controlled and monitored low humidity environment.

5 Further work

5.1 The small find requires x-raying. It may be possible to further identify the type and date of the knife after x-raying.